

Now, I do not want price controls. In fact, I do not want people buying their prescription drugs over the Internet. But I think it should be legal. What I really want is American pharmacists to have access to what pharmacists in Europe have. It is called parallel trade. Because that pharmacist in Frankfurt, Germany can go ahead and order his drugs from Sweden or Norway or France or Spain, wherever they can buy them cheapest.

You see, there was a President by the name of Ronald Reagan who said that markets are more powerful than armies. And it really is time that we use market pressures and market forces to help control the runaway prices of prescription drugs. I believe American consumers have a right to that. I believe American consumers have a right to world-class drugs at world-market prices. So I hope Members will join me in this great effort to make certain that we open markets, that we create a competitive market so that Americans can buy Zocor for \$30 rather than \$85. We are not asking for a free lunch. We are just asking for a fair price.

NICS/GUN SHOW LOOPHOLE/NO FLY, NO BUY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KUHLMANN of New York). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, many here in this Chamber, each and every one of us came to Congress to try and make a difference, and each one of us are trying to make that difference.

I came to Congress to try and reduce gun violence in this Nation. And many people have heard me talk about this for close to 8½ years now. What I want to talk about tonight are three pieces of legislation that I have and why I feel they are so important, especially in the climate that we have.

We are post-9/11 now, and I think what we need to do is start looking at our gun laws that are here today and how we can make this country safer, certainly being part of our homeland security.

One of the bills that I think is probably extremely important is the NICS Improvement Act. Unfortunately, I had a tragedy back in my district going back 3 years ago, where a person came into one of our local churches and ended up shooting the priest and a parishioner. On further investigation, we found out that New York State actually had a record where he should not have been able to buy a gun. But being that they did not give that information to the NICS system, and we all know that a computer is only as good as the system that has the information in it.

Now, with that we did legislation, it actually passed here in the House by a voice vote, and I think it is important that we get that going again and get that improved.

And another reason why, many of us are experiencing high volumes of gangs

in our community. And it was only a few months ago that some gangs that were caught by our local police, who did a great job, traced the guns that these young people had, and they were bought legally in Alabama. And I say that, legally. But, again, if they had tried to buy them in New York, they would have been in the system. They were in the system and basically they would not have been able to buy the gun if the NICS system had the correct information in it.

Right now, 25 States have entered less than 60 percent of the convictions of why some people should not be able to buy guns. Thirteen States do not list domestic violence convictions and restraining orders. And unfortunately, that was one of the things with Mr. Troy, who did the shooting in the parish church. His mother actually had a restraining order on him.

Thirty-three States do not share mental health records. Now, I know there is an argument there that we are picking on people with mental health problems. That is not it. We are saying that people that come under adjudication under the system are denied the right to buy a gun. The privacy issue is kept in place. Mainly, if you are denied on a gun, all it does is come up rejected; it does not say for what area that you were rejected. And I think it is important that we get this bill up on the system. This way we will be able to certainly prevent people that should not be able to buy guns, by law under the 1968 Gun Control Act, which is only enforcing the law that is already on the books. We had terrific bipartisan support in the 107th Congress, and I think it is something that we should be doing to move around.

The gun show loophole. I know we had our battles here on the gun show loophole, but even information again for post, 9/11, the FBI has found that over 40 "terrorists" on the terrorist watch list have gone into gun shows and been able to buy AK-47s and other guns.

Now, it is common sense that those that go buy a gun, and 13 States have already passed legislation, it has not stopped anyone from buying a gun. It has not closed down any gun shows, because I know that many of our friends in the Midwest, this is a family weekend. They go out and spend a day there and that is fine. I do not have a problem with that. But I think the majority of people agree with me, if you are going to buy a gun, you need to go through a background check. I think that is the basic law that we could do.

The other thing that really perturbs me, and by the way this actually goes into my third bill, no fly, no buy list. Right now we have a list, a terrorist list, and they are not allowed to get onto a plane. And yet they can go into any gun store, they can go to any gun show and are able to buy a gun. I do not think that makes too much common sense. We should be stopping these people from being able to buy their guns.

Think about what happened here in D.C. a few years ago. One person, two people with a gun, certainly kept D.C. and the surrounding area petrified, and millions of dollars was lost.

Imagine these terrorists. You know, people, I think, are starting to become, feel too safe. We know that terrorists will strike when no one is paying attention. And as long as we pay attention to detail, we can stop these terrorists from doing bodily harm. No fly, no buy.

I understand that when you look at foreign countries, sometimes people are prosecuted. That would not be the same here in this country. We know that there are political reasons why they might be thrown in jail. We have a way of being able to adjudicate that.

And also, the list that I chose for this bill is on a list where people can actually go to it and get off the list. And I think that is important because we certainly do not want to deny anyone.

The three bills that I have introduced are not going to stop anyone from being able to buy a gun. Their second amendment rights are protected.

I made a promise when I came to Congress that I would reduce gun violence in this country. But I also am not here to try and take away the right of anyone to own a gun. That is a personal decision for many of us.

Some of us do not like guns. I used to do skeet shooting. It was not my sport. That is certainly up to me. Yet, I know there are many people around this Nation that like to go hunting. And we have always said, going back since 1994, they will be able to go hunting. We are not trying to take away the right to own the gun. But we must enforce the laws that are on the books and make this a safer country.

CLUB GITMO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, this past weekend I spent part of the weekend down in the Tropics. I went to an island down in the Caribbean. And the place where I went had an ocean view, and the facility is relatively new. Some of the rooms are air-conditioned and some are not. Some of the rooms actually would meet ADA standards for the physically challenged.

The guests that were there, they were not working. They are standing around talking. There is a lot of talking and I noticed that there are soccer courts. There are volleyball courts. There is table tennis, and they are building a new basketball court.

I ate lunch, the same meals that the guests had. The lunch that I had was marinated chicken with orange sauce, rice pilaf, steamed vegetables, plenty of rolls and butter. Some of the guests that are there have even gained up to 5 to 10 pounds while being there.

New medical facilities are there, new dental facilities. The people that are

there average four medical visits a week or, rather, a month. That is more than most Americans do in a year.

The medical personnel there performed 128 surgeries, and no one that has been there, of the 700 guests that have been there, not one has died from any cause. In fact, the medical personnel saved the lives of numerous ones.

They come from all over the world, 24 different countries; 520 of them are there; 2,200 of them have gone back home.

The rooms are very clean. I notice that there are no Gideon Bibles in any of the rooms, but every room has a Koran. You know, American troops do not get U.S.-funded taxpayer Bibles overseas. But all these guests get taxpayer-funded Korans. And of course the staff that is there cannot touch these Korans.

Of course I am talking about Gitmo, the Guantanamo Bay terrorist detention center. These people are prisoners of war and the guards that are there are doing an outstanding job.

Speaking of the Koran, the guards are not permitted to touch the Koran except under rare circumstances. And if they do, they have to wear linen gloves before they can move this Koran to a different cell.

The people that are there are there for two purposes. They are suspected terrorists that are going to be tried for war crimes, like killing people all over the world, many of whom are Americans. The others that are there are being interrogated, those suspected terrorists.

Now I observed those interrogations, Mr. Speaker. There are no abuses. There are no dogs. There is no abuse. The interrogations that took place, neither the interrogator nor the prisoner knew that we were observing. And numerous Members of Congress went this past week and observed these facilities.

One hundred fifty of these individuals have attorneys. Any prisoner that is there that wants an attorney is entitled to have one.

Two hundred of them have been released; in fact, maybe releasing some we should not release, because 12 of the ones that have been released have been either recaptured or killed on the battlefield. One is of particular note. When he was first arrested and captured as a terrorist he had a leg that was infected, so part of it was amputated. And he was fitted with a new prosthesis by American medical personnel. Later released and he was captured, recaptured on the battlefield, and of course he was still wearing that American prosthesis that taxpayers paid for.

These people do not work. You know, even in Texas we work our inmates. Today they are out picking cotton. But they are just there to be observed and to be housed. You know, one of these facilities meets American Corrections Association standards.

And these people, Mr. Speaker, are not nice. They spit on our guards. They

throw urine and feces at our guards. And some of these people want to kill Americans.

The guards, Mr. Speaker, are first class. They are from all branches of the service. They have tremendous cooperation with each other, and they make us proud. The accusations of abuse in a dungeon-like facility do a disservice to these troops and the troops in combat.

I had lunch with two of these guards, George Telles and Enrique Lopez, Jr., both Navy sailors that guard cell blocks. And they do us a great honor and a service there.

These inmates are not protected by the Geneva Convention, although we treat them like they are. The Geneva Convention says that POWs, to be a real prisoner of war, they must be in a uniform, they must not have concealed weapons, they must not kill innocents, and they must have a chain of command. And these terrorists violate all four of these rules, but yet we treat them with greater respect than in the Geneva Convention.

The International Red Cross observes the entire facility and has access to all of the prisoners to talk to them on a one-on-one basis. There have been no deaths in Guantanamo. And you know, in prisoner-of-war camps in the past, Americans have died. Back in the war between the States, thousands of prisoners, Confederate and Union soldiers died. In Vietnam, about 9 percent of the Americans in custody there died. In Korea, about 30 percent. In World War II, we know that about 40 percent of Americans in custody in Japan died, all in prisoner-of-war camps, and not one person has died in these.

□ 1945

Amnesty International calls this place a "gulag." Well, these are words from the uninformed elite. They must want "Club GITMO" or "Disney World of the Caribbean."

Some said to close it down. That is just not appropriate, Mr. Speaker. We probably ought to make it bigger. It would be a crime to close this place down and let these criminals loose on the world. There is a war on terror going on and these people want to kill Americans. They are dangerous. The 20th hijacker of 9/11 is there, and these people need to be tried for war crimes.

Mr. Speaker, I went to Iraq. I have seen what these people have done, these terrorists have done to civilians and to our military. Even one 8-year-old kid was killed while I was there. Mr. Speaker, I am more concerned about Americans being killed by terrorists by beheading and suicide bombers and the welfare of our troops than I am about some terrorist outlaw that is upset because his blueberry muffin gets cold.

SMART SECURITY AND VETERANS FUNDING

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KUHLMANN of New York). Under a previous

order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in sadness and in frustration over the news that the Nation finds itself \$1 billion short of the funding that is needed to cover health care for our Nation's veterans this year.

It is bad enough that next year's VA budget will almost surely be inadequate; now we are having trouble paying for this year's needs. Just as the architects of our Iraq policy did not have a plan for winning the peace, it appears that the budget experts in the executive branch did not plan for increased veteran costs associated with the deadly foreign war, a preemptive war that has killed over 1,700 troops and injured more than 13,000, a war that will certainly result in an increased burden on the Veterans Administration.

This shortfall comes on the heels of efforts by the Bush administration to increase veterans prescription drug copayments and to add an enrollment fee to enter the veterans health care system in the first place. There is even talk of classifying veterans in ways that entitle some veterans to benefits and leaves others on the outside looking in.

How is this possible, Mr. Speaker, all the talk of supporting the troops, is this just rhetoric? Is it just bumper sticker boiler plate, or are we really serious about honoring the sacrifices of war and showing our gratitude to those who have risked life and limb on our behalf?

What is even worse is that some people saw this budget problem coming and were ignored or rebuffed. Minority Members in the other Chamber, the Senate, proposed adding money to the VA budget in anticipation of this shortfall, but they were told by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs this spring that no emergency supplemental funds were needed.

Well, guess what? Emergency supplemental funds are needed. And now we either have to get an advance on next year's limited VA appropriations; borrow from other parts of the VA budget; or pass a supplemental bill to fill the gap. One of the key committee Chairs has said that it would be best to avoid a supplemental package. But were they saying that, Mr. Speaker, when we were debating an over-\$200 billion supplemental bill to fund the war effort in the first place? It does not make sense to me.

We have no problem approving billions upon billions of dollars and taking on massive debt to send our brave soldiers to Iraq in the first place. And while they are there, we are denying them of the protective body armor and vehicles that would prevent these severe wounds in the first place, and they are returning home more injured than ever. And when they come home, then we start pinching pennies, pinching pennies on their care. Are these the priorities of a great Nation?